

# Pictured Rocks

National Lakeshore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## DAY HIKES

### *In The Munising Area*

*One of the best ways to experience Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is to hike its network of trails. If you only have a few minutes or hours to see a portion of the Lakeshore, one of these day hikes may be for you. Lace up your hiking shoes, grab a snack and a canteen, and head down the trail!*



#### **Munising Falls**

Walk the paved 0.25 mile round trip trail up the cool, shaded sandstone canyon along Munising Creek to the falls. The stairs at the first viewing platform lead to a trail behind the 50 foot waterfall which drops over a sandstone cliff. Watch for ferns, flowers, and an occasional mink. The trail is disabled accessible to the falls viewing platform.

#### **Sand Point Marsh Trail**

This 0.5 mile disabled accessible boardwalk trail begins across from the Sand Point swimming beach parking area. A short distance up the Lakeshore Trail the Marsh Trail boardwalk leads you to explore the natural and cultural history of this unique wetland complex. Old beach ridges, an active beaver pond, white cedar and black spruce swamp communities dominate the scene. Early or late in the day are good times to look for waterfowl and other bird and mammal species. Interpretive exhibits, a large print brochure, and audio tape guide are in production for the trail.

#### **Miners Falls**

This moderate 1.2 mile round trip trail is popular with families and larger groups. The trail leads you through a second growth stand of northern mixed hardwoods of sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, and hemlock trees. Low growing evergreen yew flank the trail in places. Wildflowers and warblers are abundant in the spring. Descend the steep set of 77 stairs at trail's end to see rainbow hues form as sunlight is reflected in the mist rising from the falls. A self guiding trail brochure is in production for the trail.

#### **Chapel Loop**

The Chapel Loop Trail, a moderately strenuous nine mile hike, begins at the Chapel parking area, 20 miles east of Munising.

Many hikers begin on the east leg of the loop. One and a half miles from the parking area you will cross the creek on a footbridge and follow the trail to the falls. The overlook reveals a spectacular view of Chapel Falls as it cascades some 90 feet down the sandstone cliff. Chapel is one of the highest waterfalls in the park. It is especially beautiful when the birches are tinted yellow in autumn.

In a narrow gorge below lies the 128

foot deep Chapel Lake, deepest inland lake within the Lakeshore. Chapel Lake was formed by a river channel during an earlier geologic period as glacial meltwater rushed along the Pictured Rocks escarpment. Continue on to Lake Superior where the trail passes Chapel Rock. The rock was carved by high lake levels some 3800 years ago. Windows in the rock stand 40 feet above the present lake level and were carved by wave and current action in an earlier era. The rock was named by passing French Voyageurs engaged in the shipment of furs in the 1600's.

Walk along Chapel Beach ridge and ascend the cliffs to the west. Two miles

ahead lies spectacular Grand Portal and Indianhead Points. At 200 feet above Lake Superior, this is the highest section of the Pictured Rocks escarpment.

Herring gull colonies can be seen below on the rocks. Look for the portly dark colored young in the spring. Do not venture too close to the cliff edge, however, as the rock is weak, easily broken, and covered with loose gravel.

Continue on to mouth of the Mosquito River and return the 1.7 miles to the parking area.

#### **Chapel Beach**

This 5.4 mile round trip walk from the

#### **White Pine Trail**

This easy 0.7 mile loop begins at the

#### **Beaver Basin Loop**

This easy 5.0 mile loop also begins at

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### Chapel Beach

This 5.4 mile round trip walk from the Chapel parking lot to the beach is popular with picnickers. Most hikers use the trail through rolling terrain which follows the west shore of Chapel Lake. A day picking blueberries or watching the waves roll in to the white sand beach is always a pleasure.

### White Pine Trail

This easy 0.7 mile loop begins at the Little Beaver Campground. The trail includes a stand of 300-500 year old white pines. Take thirty minutes to an hour to enjoy this walk on a hot summer day when the cool, moist, microclimate of the north woods can be appreciated to its fullest. A self guiding interpretive brochure is available at the trailhead.

### Beaver Basin Loop

This easy 5.0 mile loop also begins at the Little Beaver Campground. The first leg of the trail traverses part of the White Pine Trail discussed above. Walk past several old "sea caves" cut in the 500 million year old sandstone on your way to Lake Superior. Take the right hand side of the loop east along the shores of Little Beaver and Big Beaver Lakes, then out to Lake Superior. Return via the beach and inland trail.

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#### Sable Falls

Beginning at the Sable Falls parking area, this moderately difficult 0.6 mile round trip leads you along Sable Creek to Lake Superior. The first landing on the stairs provides a view of beautiful Sable Falls. The trail continues past the falls down the canyon at creek level to a rocky beach on Lake Superior. Benches are provided along the way for rest stops.

#### Grand Sable Dunes

A moderately easy 1.0 mile round trip to the dunes begins at the Sable Falls parking area. As you pass an old orchard and cross Sable Creek, the trail leads through jack pines to the windswept dunes. Orchids abound in the pines during the summer. (Please stay on the trail to protect them.) Exhibits along the trail discuss dune plants and their role in this special environment. See the ghost forest and a panoramic view of Lake Superior beyond the dunes.

#### Beech Forest

An easy, 2.0 mile loop walk, begin either at the Sable Falls parking lot or the Grand Sable Visitor Center. The trail provides a cool stroll through a beech-maple forest and along the edge of old farm fields. Remnants of an old cedar shake camp lie near the trail. The south end of the trail crosses the creek on H-58.

#### Log Slide Overlook

The overlook is adjacent to the Log Slide parking area. The disabled accessible boardwalk leads to an overlook of the Grand Sable Banks which rise some 300 feet above Lake Superior. To the west the Au Sable Light Station is silhouetted against the lake. To the east the Grand Sable Dunes lie in the distance, as does the port of Grand Marais, some five miles away. Exhibits interpret the historic scene and one of the most exciting views within the Lakeshore.

Another popular hike from the Log Slide overlook is the 2.0 mile walk (4.0 round trip) on the Lakeshore Trail to the Au Sable Light Station. If members of your group do not wish to hike, they can drive to meet you at the Hurricane River Campground.

#### Hurricane River to Au Sable Light Station

Take a walk back in time. This level 3.0 mile round trip begins at the Hurricane River picnic area. Take the Lakeshore trail east through the campground and down the old access road to the light station on Au Sable Point. Exposed shipwreck remains punctuate the shoreline. The quiet light station complex gives a feeling of yesteryear where families lived and worked from 1874 till 1958. Portions of the complex will be open to visitors in the next few years as buildings are restored to their 1910 appearance. Wayside exhibits interpret the historic scene.

#### White Birch Trail

This self guiding interpretive trail begins at the east end of the Twelvemile Beach Campground. The moderately difficult, 2.0 mile loop is interpreted by a trail guide which explores the natural history of the uplands adjacent to the lake. Once you climb eighty feet to the ridge, you are in a very different environment from that of the campground.

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## Sevenmile Creek

If you are looking for an easy, half day hike try this 5.0 mile round trip hike beginning at the Twelvemile Campground loop. The trail begins at the Lakeshore Trailhead west of the campground. Explore the ridge going out and try beachcombing on the way back. In early spring, Sevenmile is a productive trout stream for fishermen.

## WALKING AND HIKING TIPS

*Any walk or day hike, no matter what length, is more fun if you are properly prepared. Always wear sturdy footwear. If you plan to be out an extended time, carry a snack and a canteen of water. Save more than half of your energy for the return walk. Local weather is modified by Lake Superior. Dress for cool conditions and carry rain gear. If you are hiking in unfamiliar terrain, carry a map and compass and know how to use them. Rock within the Lakeshore is soft, crumbly sandstone and is often covered with gravel – stay away from cliff edges. As always, let someone know where you are going. **Pets are allowed on specific trails – ask a ranger for details. Bicycles are not permitted on hiking trails. Backcountry permits are required only if you plan to camp in backcountry.***

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